



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

PATRICK W. FINNERTY
DIRECTOR

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Dear Parent/Caregiver:

You are being asked to sign a form providing parental consent for billing public insurance. Public insurance includes both Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance (FAMIS). If your child is now or later becomes eligible for Medicaid or FAMIS and he or she receives medically-related services written in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the federal government can help the school division pay for these services. Medically-related services that are part of some IEPs include physical, occupational or speech therapy, nursing services, psychological services and other Medicaid services associated with the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).

Parental consent is necessary before the school can bill Medicaid or FAMIS for these services. By obtaining this consent up front from all participants in the IEP process, the school division is assured of receiving the maximum Medicaid or FAMIS reimbursement for services provided rather than covering the costs solely from local tax dollars.

Your consent is entirely voluntary. If you do not give consent, it will not affect the services your child is entitled to. The school division is still required to provide a free and appropriate public education, including any services as part of an IEP. By billing Medicaid or FAMIS, however, the school division will receive additional funds to supplement local funding for educational programs.

Let me also assure you that school billing for Medicaid or FAMIS services will not affect your Medicaid or FAMIS benefits. Also, schools will not be billing your private insurance. You will not suffer any financial loss as a result of consenting to the billing for public insurance.

Billing public insurance for special education services is an important source of funding for school divisions. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Barton, Maternal and Child Health Services Coordinator with Medicaid at 804-371-7824.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Finnerty".

Patrick W. Finnerty

PWF/ab